



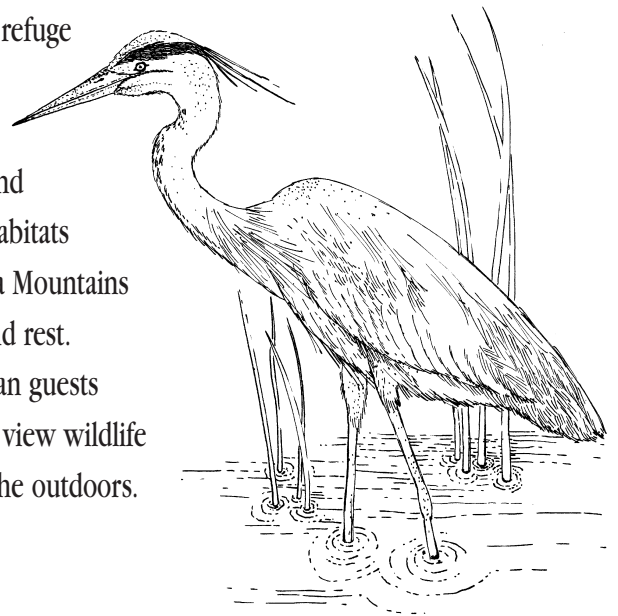
## ROCKY OAKS



*s you drive along Mulholland Highway or Kanan Road, you could easily miss Rocky Oaks. Hidden between houses, roads and other signs of modern life, Rocky Oaks is home to a surprising number of plants and animals. Its fewer than 200 acres contain a diversity of wildlife habitats including a pond, oak woodland, grassland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities.*

For thousands of years, Rocky Oaks provided people with food, shelter and materials. Ancestors of today's Chumash survived on the abundant resources of the land, hunting animals and harvesting plants. European settlers brought agriculture to this area. The stock pond and much of the grassland habitat are remnants of that life-style. Agricultural operations at Rocky Oaks ended with the 1978 Kanan Fire.

Today, Rocky Oaks serves as a refuge for wildlife. Rocky Oaks is an undeveloped space in which animals can find food and shelter. It helps connect the habitats that make up the Santa Monica Mountains and allows animals to travel and rest. Rocky Oaks also gives its human guests a place to relax, picnic, stroll, view wildlife or introduce young hikers to the outdoors.



National Park Service  
Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area  
401 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks CA 91360

Visitor Center 805-370-2301  
In emergency: dial 911

### Information & Safety

**Natural and historic features** are protected by law and may not be collected.

**Stay on established trails** and off of private property.

**Dogs** must be on a leash at all times. For the consideration of others, please clean up after your pet.

**Fire** is a constant danger. Open fires are prohibited. Charcoal and gas stoves are allowed in designated picnic areas only. Smoking is not permitted while traveling on trails.

**Firearms** are not allowed on public lands in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

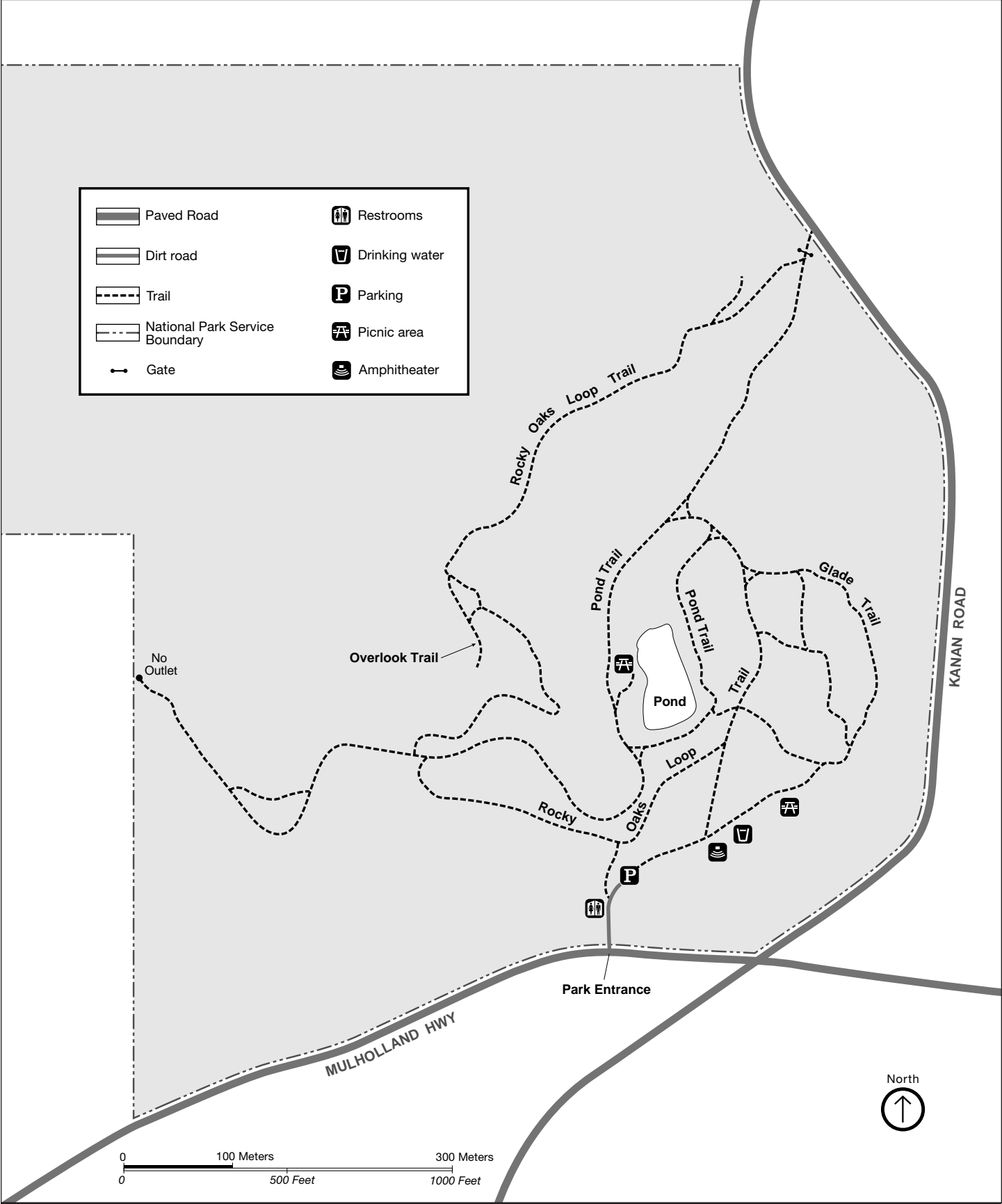
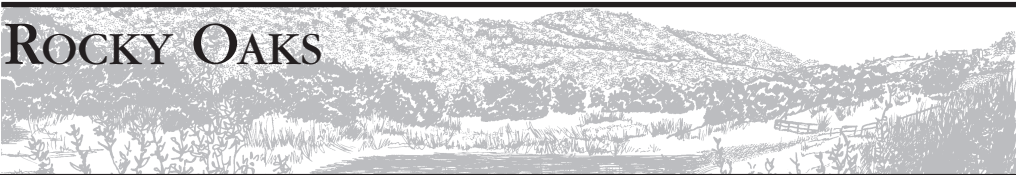
Learn to recognize and be alert for **ticks, bees, rattlesnakes**, and **poison oak**.

**Bicyclists** must yield to hikers and horseback riders. **Hikers** must yield to horseback riders.

**Horseback riders** should communicate with passing hikers and bicyclists, letting them know how and when to pass. Let others know when you wish to pass, and do so on the left.

**Trail closures** will be in effect during and following significant rainfall to protect park resources. Trails will be re-opened when dry enough to sustain public use.

**Swimming** is not permitted. Water that comes from ponds and streams is not safe to drink, due to possible contamination or the presence of the giardia protozoan.



Trails

**Rocky Oaks Pond Trail** *0.4 miles, easy*—Stroll around the pond and rest at the water’s edge. This pond, left over from when Rocky Oaks was a cattle ranch, supplies drinking water to animals such as rabbits, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons and deer. Water birds such as buffleheads, mallards and coots can be found swimming in the pond. Plants such as tule, cattail and willow grow in and near the water.

**Rocky Oaks Loop Trail** *1.1 miles, easy*—Stop, take a deep breath, and smell the sage as you walk along this trail. Sage is an important part of the chaparral plant community. Chaparral plants, common in the Santa Monica Mountains, are

found only in a few places in the world, including the Mediterranean coast, southern California, central Chile, southern Africa and southern Australia. Chaparral plants are adapted to fire and can survive long periods without rain.

**Glade Trail** *0.3 miles, easy*—Look for quail, rabbits and deer mice as you walk through the grassland. Most of the grasses you see today are non-natives such as wild oats. With the introduction of ranching and farming, much of California’s native grassland was lost. Explore the oak woodland that is a remnant of what once covered much of California. Many oak trees have been lost due to ranching, farming, industrialization and development. Acorns were an

important food source for the area’s first human inhabitants. Today, oaks still provide food and shelter for many animals and the shade from these trees is refreshing on a hot day.

**Overlook Trail** *100 yards, moderate*—Hike to the top and be rewarded with a panoramic view of the Santa Monica Mountains. Imagine this area 500 years ago. What wouldn’t you see? The landscape has changed considerably since then. Houses, roads and telephone poles now dot the natural landscape. What will this place look like in 50 years if we don’t take care of our resources?